

## REAL CHRISTMAS TREES

### FRESH CUT

There is nothing like the smell of a real fresh Christmas Tree to give you that great Christmassy buzz, and we are now spoiled for choice with all the different types of trees.

The **Norway Spruce** is the traditional Christmas Tree. This type has that great Christmassy smell, and is the most economical. This tree is perfect as an outdoor tree, but if you want one for indoors, please be aware that they do tend to lose their needles much quicker than other varieties.

The **Nordmann Fir** has become the nations favourite! It has many great qualities, including it's beautiful shape, wonderful smell, and excellent needle retention. These trees were tailor made for families, with lovely soft foliage, making them child and pet friendly.

The popularity of the **Fraser Fir** is also increasing – it has a wonderful smell, it holds it's needles well, and has a slender even conical shape.

### How to care for your cut tree!

A closed in warm environment is by no means the perfect setting for a Christmas Tree! But you can help to prolong the life of the Christmas focal point by following a few simple guide lines.

1. Take off the bottom 1" of the tree before taking inside. This will allow the tree to take up the water more easily.
2. If you aren't setting it up immediately, stand your tree outside in a bucket of water until you are ready to bring it inside.
3. The tree needs to be placed in a stand that can hold fresh water. The tree will immediately start to take up the water, so check and top up the water level daily – do not let it dry out!
4. Try not to place your tree directly next to a radiator or fire!
5. Miniature tree lights produce less heat and reduce the drying effect of the tree.
6. But the most important tip of all is, ENJOY YOUR TREE!

## LIVING TREES

**Living trees** are a great idea in practise, and tend to be chosen as an environmentally friendly alternative. However, in reality it is quite difficult to achieve a long life for your potted tree, if it is being brought indoors. The trees have been grown outside, so they need to be acclimatised to get them used to the warmer conditions. Establishing them back outside also needs to be a gradual process. Professional advise needs to be sought to give your tree a better long term chance of survival.

There are several types of 'living' trees. Once you have purchased your tree, there is no guarantee as to how long any type may last, but here are some guidelines to help you on your way:

**Pot grown** – grown in the pot – long term, best kept in the pot outdoors.

**Potted** – dug up from the ground with roots on and put into a pot for sale – these have the least chance of survival after Christmas, since they are being taken away completely from their natural growing environment.

**Root ball trees** – these are trees that have had controlled root growth with the roots being contained in a breathable type bag. These probably have the best chance of survival in the ground.

You may want to re-pot your tree into a larger container on receipt, especially if you want to keep the tree potted for the following year. This will give room for the following years growth.

## How to care for your living tree

If you wish to bring your tree indoors, we recommend the following:

1. Water water water! As any living plant, your living tree needs to be watered regularly. They should never be left to dry out since this could cause considerable harm to your tree. They can take up to 1-2 pints of water per day. Do not neglect your tree!
2. Repot: If you decide to re-pot your tree into a bigger container, ensure you use a good quality planting medium, such as our Peat Based Potting Compost.
3. Acclimatise: Keep your tree in a garage, shed or porch before bringing indoors to help the tree acclimatise. It has spent the whole of its life outdoors, so bringing into a warm environment will be a big shock to your tree.
4. Leave it as near to Christmas as possible to bring your tree indoors. We would recommend that the tree be kept indoors for no more than 7-10 days.
5. Keep well watered: Ensure that your tree receives at least a pint of water per day. It is imperative that your potted tree is never allowed to dry out.
6. Keep away from heat: Do not put your tree near the fire or radiator, or any other heat source – it must be kept as far away as possible.
7. After Christmas, you will need to re-acclimatise your tree by leaving it in a shed, garage or porch, until early Spring. Do not forget to keep your tree watered during this time.
8. Once you put your tree outside, position it in a relatively sheltered, but sunny spot. Once again, please ensure that your tree is kept watered during dry periods. Feed with a suitable product once or twice per year.

## LIGHTS – IMPORTANT

- It is important that you wait for your tree to dry out before putting lights on your tree.
- It is imperative that great care is taken when watering your tree. Unplug lights from the socket, and all electrics such as sockets, controllers and lights must be kept out of the way whilst watering your tree.

THE FINAL TIP IS 'ENJOY YOUR TREE!'